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AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 20, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

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In an illustrative embodiment of the invention, the composite image is screened to identify and sort pixels having a strong response and similar angles. These pixels can be grouped into candidate contours. The candidate contours can then be passed to a higher order process such as a Hough or chaining process to form higher order groups and ultimately to form complete contours such as scratches. An exemplary chaining process can be performed according to the method described in U.S. Patent 6,941,016 Application No. _____ by Applicant entitled "~~Method for Finding Contours in an Image of an Object~~" and filed on ~~December 31, 2001~~ which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

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